

Whereas, in March 2013, a Swedish-Lebanese Hizballah operative in Cyprus was convicted of planning terror attacks against Israeli tourists;

Whereas, in June 2015, a Hizballah operative was sentenced to 6 years in prison after he stockpiled more than 8 tons of ammonium nitrate in Cyprus;

Whereas, in December 2015, the Hizballah International Financing Prevention Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-102) was signed into law in the United States, broadening financial sector sanctions against Hizballah to compel foreign financial institutions to refrain from supporting the terrorist group;

Whereas, in May 2018, the Department of the Treasury imposed sanctions on Mohammad Ibrahim Bazzi, a Hizballah financier, and blacklisted 5 of his companies, including Belgian energy services conglomerate Global Trading Group;

Whereas, in October 2018, French police raided the Islamic Zahra Centre on suspicion of supporting Hizballah, freezing the organization's funds, and seizing illegal weapons;

Whereas, in September 2020, 4 former leaders of the Zahra Centre were arrested on suspicion of continuing to run the association;

Whereas, in July 2019, the Department of the Treasury listed 2 Hizballah-backed members of Lebanese Parliament, Amin Sherri and Mohammad Raad, to the terror blacklist, stating that Hizballah uses its parliamentary power to advance its violent activities;

Whereas, in April 2020, Germany investigated over 1,050 people with suspected links to Hizballah;

Whereas Europol's June 2020 European Union Terrorism Situation and Trend Report outlined that Hizballah is "suspected of trafficking diamonds and drugs and of money laundering via the trade in second-hand cars", and the report also stated that "investigations face the difficulty of demonstrating that the funds collected are channeled to the military wing of the organization";

Whereas United States-led Operations Cassandra and Cedar exposed the criminal-business wing of Hizballah via the External Security Organization Business Affairs Component (BAC);

Whereas, during Operation Cassandra, Hizballah elements involved in drug trafficking were arrested in the United States, South America, and several European countries, including France, Belgium, Germany, and Italy;

Whereas Hizballah's criminal activity in Europe is run by the BAC, which reports to the External Security Organisation, a.k.a. Unit 910, or the Islamic Jihad Organization (IJO), and Abdallah Safieddine, Hizballah's representative in Iran, is also involved in this activity;

Whereas, in August 2020, United Nations Secretary General Guterres called on Lebanon to disarm Hizballah, citing the terror group's persistent violation of Resolution 1701 (2006);

Whereas Iran is the prime sponsor of Hizballah, harboring, financing, training, and arming the group;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury and Department of State estimate that Iran provides as much as \$700,000,000 per year to Hizballah in the form of financial and logistical support, weapons, and training;

Whereas Hizballah now has an arsenal of approximately 150,000 missiles and rockets, many of which can reach deep into Israel;

Whereas Hizballah fighters have been supporting the Assad regime in Syria, often leading operations in the conflict which has left more than 500,000 dead;

Whereas Hizballah's destabilizing actions in Syria has fueled a migrant crisis that has brought over 700,000 refugees to Europe;

Whereas Hizballah trains and provides weapons for Shiite militias in Iraq and Yemen, further destabilizing the region and perpetuating violence in those countries;

Whereas Hizballah activities continue to plague Lebanon with profound economic and political instability and violence;

Whereas, in August 2020, 200 Lebanese people died when a massive stockpile of ammonium nitrate exploded in Beirut's port;

Whereas the Lebanese Armed Forces, the legitimate security establishment of the country as outlined in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1701 (2006), are struggling to control the flow of weapons and Hizballah fighters at Lebanon's borders;

Whereas, in October 2012, Hizballah Deputy Secretary General Naim Qassem stated that "[Hizballah does not] have a military wing and a political one . . . Every element of Hizballah, from commanders to members as well as our various capabilities, are in the service of the resistance";

Whereas, as of September 2021, the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Serbia, and Kosovo have designated Hizballah in its entirety as a terror organization;

Whereas, in March 2016, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the bloc of 6 Gulf Arab nations, formally branded Hizballah, in its entirety, a terrorist organization, and the League of Arab States shortly thereafter adopted the same designation;

Whereas the Department of the Treasury has diligently added persons and entities to the list of Specially Designated Global Terrorists who have provided material support to the Hizballah terrorist organization, thereby hampering its financing and logistical capabilities;

Whereas the European Union, in July 2013, designated Hizballah's so-called "military wing", but not the organization as a whole, as a terrorist organization;

Whereas, despite restrictions put on Hizballah since the designation of its military wing, the group continues to conduct illicit narcotrafficking, money laundering, and weapons trafficking throughout Europe and the world;

Whereas, in September 2021, the European Parliament passed a resolution on the situation in Lebanon stating that "whereas Hezbollah has repeatedly shown its strong ideological allegiance with Iran, which is destabilising the Lebanese Government and undermining its much-needed cohesion"; and

Whereas the Senate has previously called on the European Union to fully designate Hizballah as a terrorist organization, agreeing to Senate Resolution 482 in July 2016: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) applauds and expresses support for the continued, increased cooperation between the United States and the European Union in thwarting Hizballah's criminal and terrorist activities;

(2) supports transcontinental efforts within Europe to share intelligence information among police and security services to facilitate greater cooperation in tracking, apprehending, and prosecuting terrorists, foreign fighters, and potential offenders;

(3) encourages the European Union to implement sanctions against Hizballah-affiliated terrorists in tandem with the United States;

(4) recommends greater civil society engagement in both the United States and Europe to underscore Hizballah's malign regional influence; and

(5) urges the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization and increase pressure on the group, including through—

(A) facilitating better cross-border cooperation between European Union members in combating Hizballah;

(B) issuing arrest warrants against members and active supporters of Hizballah;

(C) freezing Hizballah's assets in Europe, including those masquerading as charities; and

(D) prohibiting fundraising activities in support of Hizballah.

SENATE RESOLUTION 378—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2021 AS "NATIONAL PROSTATE CANCER AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RISCH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. COONS, Mr. WYDEN, and Mrs. CAPRTO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 378

Whereas more than 3,100,000 men in the United States are living with prostate cancer;

Whereas 1 in 8 men in the United States will be diagnosed with prostate cancer in their lifetimes and 1 in 41 men in the United States will die from prostate cancer;

Whereas prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed non-skin cancer and the second-leading cause of cancer-related deaths among men in the United States;

Whereas the American Cancer Society estimates that, in 2021, 248,530 men will be diagnosed with, and more than 34,130 men will die of, prostate cancer;

Whereas 40 percent of newly diagnosed prostate cancer cases occur in men under the age of 65;

Whereas the odds of developing prostate cancer rise rapidly after age 50;

Whereas African-American men suffer from a prostate cancer incidence rate that is significantly higher than that of White men and have more than double the prostate cancer mortality rate than that of White men;

Whereas having a father or brother with prostate cancer more than doubles the risk of a man developing prostate cancer, with a higher risk for men who have a brother with the disease and the highest risk for men with several affected relatives;

Whereas screening by a digital rectal examination and a prostate-specific antigen blood test can detect the disease at the earlier, more treatable stages, which could increase the chances of survival for more than 5 years to nearly 100 percent;

Whereas only 30 percent of men survive more than 5 years if diagnosed with prostate cancer after the cancer has metastasized;

Whereas there are typically no noticeable symptoms of prostate cancer in the early stages, making appropriate screening critical;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2021, the Director of the National Institutes of Health will support approximately \$256,000,000 in research projects focused specifically on prostate cancer;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2021, Congress appropriated \$110,000,000 for the Prostate Cancer Research Program of the Department of Defense;

Whereas the Department of Veterans Affairs has established 20 Precision Oncology

Centers of Excellence in order to deliver precision oncology services to veterans suffering from prostate cancer;

Whereas ongoing research promises further improvements in prostate cancer prevention, early detection, and treatment; and

Whereas educating people in the United States, including health care providers, about prostate cancer and early detection strategies is crucial to saving the lives of men and preserving and protecting families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2021 as “National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month”;

(2) declares that steps should be taken—

(A) to raise awareness about the importance of screening methods for, and treatment of, prostate cancer;

(B) to encourage research—

(i) to improve screening and treatment for prostate cancer;

(ii) to discover the causes of prostate cancer; and

(iii) to develop a cure for prostate cancer; and

(C) to continue to consider ways to improve access to, and the quality of, health care services for detecting and treating prostate cancer; and

(3) calls on the people of the United States, interest groups, and affected persons—

(A) to promote awareness of prostate cancer;

(B) to take an active role in the fight to end the devastating effects of prostate cancer on individuals, families, and the economy; and

(C) to observe National Prostate Cancer Awareness Month with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 379— OFFICIAL TITLE NOT AVAILABLE

Mr. DURBIN submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 379

Whereas a “National Small Business Week” has been declared by every President since 1963;

Whereas there are more than 30,000,000 small businesses in the United States that support more than 60,000,000 jobs;

Whereas thousands of small business establishments have been particularly hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic and government lockdowns;

Whereas small businesses will play an integral role in rebuilding the economy of the United States; and

Whereas September 13, 2021, through September 17, 2021, would be an appropriate week to celebrate “National Small Business Week”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors and celebrates the entrepreneurial spirit and contributions of small businesses in every community in the United States;

(2) applauds the efforts and achievements of the owners of small businesses and their employees in every community of the United States;

(3) recognizes that in the face of significant challenges, the owners of small businesses have demonstrated incredible resilience over the past 18 months;

(4) supports the designation of “National Small Business Week”;

(5) acknowledges the importance of providing access to underserved firms; and

(6) supports efforts to—

(A) hold Federal agencies accountable for fraud, waste, and abuse of taxpayer dollars; and

(B) create an environment that enables small businesses to grow and create jobs.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME EN BLOC—S. 2809 AND H.R. 5305

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I understand there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2809) to protect social security benefits and military pay and require that the United States Government to prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached.

A bill (H.R. 5305) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance, and for other purposes.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021, AT 8:22 P.M.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I move to adjourn until 8:22 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to adjourn until 8:22 p.m.

The motion was agreed to.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:20 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at 8:22 p.m.

SENATE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

The Senate met at 8:22 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARK KELLY, a Senator from the State of Arizona.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 22, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARK KELLY, a Senator from the State of Arizona, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. KELLY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate resumed morning business.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR EN BLOC

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I understand there are four bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator is correct.

The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2788) to reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program.

A bill (S. 2789) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 2809) to protect social security benefits and military pay and require that the United States Government to prioritize all obligations on the debt held by the public in the event that the debt limit is reached.

A bill (H.R. 5305) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for providing emergency assistance, and for other purposes.

Mr. DURBIN. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I will object to further proceeding en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 174.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ronald L. Davis, of California, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.